

Course Syllabus
Political Science 145
The Politics of Global Problems
Spring 2002

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:18

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of international relations. The course begins with an historical overview of the international system and the rise and functions of nation-states. We then examine various levels of analysis and theoretical perspectives on international relations—including Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism—and discuss the nature of foreign policy decision-making. The second half of the course applies these concepts to such issues as war and peace, the politics of economic relations, international organizations, ethnic conflict, the environment, human rights, the European Union, and globalization.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend every class session and to keep themselves updated on current events involving international affairs (we will begin every Thursday session with a discussion of relevant current events). Graded assignments include: (1) a midterm exam, (2) a final exam, (3) a quiz, and (4) a 2-page memo on a contemporary international relations topic (more detailed instructions on this assignment will be forthcoming in class). The exams will test course readings as well as information covered during class sessions. Note that class lectures and discussion will often cover material that is not covered in the course texts.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%
Memo	15%
Quiz	15%

Course Texts

The course readings are from the following required books, both available at SBX:

- Karen Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations*, 2nd Edition (W.W. Norton)
- Karen Mingst & Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (W.W. Norton)

April 2 -- Introductory session

What are international relations and why are they important? What are the goals of IR as a field of study?
What are the goals and organization of this course?

April 4 -- Conceptual Foundations of IR I: Levels of Analysis and Realism

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 3
Bald, in Mingst & Snyder
Morgenthau, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 34-38

April 9 -- Conceptual Foundations of IR II: Liberalism and Constructivism

Readings: Kant, in Mingst & Snyder
Wilson, in Mingst & Snyder
Walt, in Mingst & Snyder

April 11 -- Historical Foundations of IR

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 2

April 16 -- The Structure and Actors I: The International System

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 4
Waltz, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 70-76

April 18 -- The Structure and Actors II: The State

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 5
The Economist, in Minst & Snyder, pp. 187-193

April 23 -- The Structure and Actors III: Foreign Policy, Elites, and Domestic Interests
(Memo due at beginning of class)

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 6
Kennan, in Mingst & Snyder
Hermann & Hagan, in Mingst & Snyder

April 25 -- No Class; catch up on readings and prepare for midterm

April 30 -- War and Armed Conflict I: Causes and Types of War

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 7
von Clausewitz, in Minst & Snyder

May 2 -- Midterm Exam

May 7 -- War and Armed Conflict II: Deterrence and Balance of Power

Readings: Morgenthau, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 143-149
Waltz, in Mingst & Snyder, pp. 76-91
Gaddis, in Mingst & Snyder

May 9 – War and Armed Conflict III: Sources of Order

Readings: Bull, in Mingst & Snyder
Jervis, in Mingst & Snyder

May 14 -- Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

Readings: Huntington, in Mingst & Snyder
Posen, in Mingst & Snyder

May 16 -- International Political Economy I

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 8, pp. 184-202
Gilpin, in Mingst & Snyder

May 21 -- International Political Economy II

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 8, pp. 202-216
Krasner, in Mingst & Snyder

May 23 – Globalization (*Quiz*)

Readings: UN Development Programme, in Mingst & Snyder
Held et al., in Mingst & Snyder

May 28 -- The Prospects for International Governance I: International Organizations and Law

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 9, 218-240
Glennon, in Mingst & Snyder
Luttwak, in Mingst & Snyder

May 30 -- The Prospects for International Governance II: Sub-state and Non-Governmental Actors

Readings: Mingst, Chapter 9, 241-250
Keck & Sikkink, in Mingst & Snyder

June 4 -- Case Study: Climate Change

Readings:
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
“A Report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”
<http://www.ipcc.ch/pub/spm22-01.pdf>
UN: “Understanding Global Climate Change: A Beginner’s Guide to the UN Framework Convention.” <http://unfccc.int/resource/beginner.html>

June 6 -- Case Study: The European Union

Readings: “The European Union: A Guide for Americans,” Chapters 1, 2 & 7
<http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm>

June 13

Final Exam